

Remarks

In the Office Action mailed September 13, 2007, the Examiner rejected claims all pending claims but suggested the addition of reference to structure used to rotate and translate the elongate member as shown in Figure 2 (see Office Action page 4).

Applicants have amended independent claims 1 and 8 to more clearly claim the invention. Specifically, Applicants have added reference to a structure disposed on the module which both advances and retracts the elongate member, and, because it is disposed upon the module, rotates with the module when the module rotates. There are alternative embodiments which may perform in such a fashion. For example, such a structure may, as described in dependent claims 5, 10, and in Figure 2, comprise one or more wheels in contact with the elongate member. When the one or more wheels are driven to rotate, the elongate member is advanced or retracted. In the alternative, such a structure may comprise a mechanism which, from a first position, grips the elongate member, travels (advances or retracts), releases the elongate member, then returns to its first position and may repeat the foregoing steps, as described in paragraph 0047 of the Applicants' published application. Both embodiments undergo cycles, whether by rotation, or by repeated steps of gripping, advancing/retracting, releasing, returning to a first position and repeating the series. Consequently, both can be described as "cyclical means".

Accordingly, Applicants have overcome the grounds for rejection of claims 1 and 8. Further, original dependent claims 2-4, 9, 11-13, and 21-22 now depend from allowable base claims. Claims 5, 6 and 10 have been amended, and claim 23 added to describe alternative embodiments of a structure disposed on the module, as described above.

Support for the amendments can be found in the originally filed specification, drawings and claims. More specifically, support for the amendments can be found in originally filed claims, Figure 2, and paragraph 0047 of Applicants' published application. No new matter has been introduced by the amendments. Applicants respectfully request entry of the foregoing amendments and reconsideration of the amended claims.

Conclusion

Applicants have amended the instant application to more clearly claim the Applicants' invention. None of the foregoing amendments introduces new matter. Further, the previous bases for the Examiner's rejections under §§102 and 103 have been overcome or have been rendered moot. Accordingly, Applicants request that the foregoing amendments be entered and that the application be placed in condition for allowance.

It is not believed that an extension of time is necessary. However, Applicants hereby petition for any extension of time that is needed in order to prevent abandonment of the application. Please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned in the event of any fee deficiency.

Respectfully submitted,

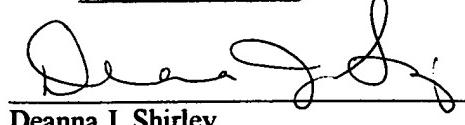


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Date: 12-13 2007


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